

“RRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE”

MEETING # 1 MINUTES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

6:30 – 9:00 PM

FWP Region 2 Office

3201 Spurgin Road

Missoula

- **Welcome – Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

-Mack Long ~ FWP Region 2 Supervisor

-Mack welcomed the committee on behalf of Region 2, highlighted the outstanding river resources in Region 2 (Blackfoot, Bitterroot, Clark Fork, and Rock Creek), mentioned the challenges of managing increased use on rivers in west-central Montana and explained the need for developing management actions/tools for addressing concerns on the Blackfoot and other rivers in the region.

-Joe Maurier ~ FWP Parks Division Administrator

-Joe welcomed the committee on behalf of the Parks Division, described the importance of rivers to Montanans, and their guests, addressed the vital role that citizen advisory committees play in helping FWP identify public interests, and mentioned the challenge of maintaining a quality river experience in light of increasing use and diverse interests.

- **Advisory Council Expectations and Charter**

-Lee Bastian ~ FWP Parks Program Manager

-Lee explained the multiple river approach for developing management actions/tools. While the committee will be addressing the next step of river management planning for the Blackfoot, the process will also develop tools for use on all rivers in Region 2. The timeframe for the planning process is expected to last between 12 and 18 months. Committee members will be expected to solicit comments from their personally established “trap line,” a group of friends and neighbors from their community that may have varying ideas and concerns about river recreation in the region.

The RRAFT committee was chosen from a pool of 59 applicants. All applicants were very well qualified and selections were made through the use of a matrix in which applicants were categorized by drainage, landowner or non-landowner, and by interest type (e.g. commercial, private, whitewater, angler, etc). Individuals were selected to fill the wide array of matrix categories, enabling the committee to represent a diverse body of interests. Those who were not selected for the RRAFT committee and interested members of the public will receive meeting notes from each meeting. Responses from these individuals to ideas and/or solutions would be beneficial as the committee moves forward.

-Charlie Sperry ~ FWP Recreation Management Specialist

-Charlie read through the RRAFT Charter with the committee. Charlie explained that the process will be guided by the statewide rule-making framework for river recreation management. He said the committee will be responsible for making suggestions and recommendations for planning and that FWP will be responsible for deciding on the manner in which those recommendations may be implemented.

- **Personal Introductions (Full Group)**

- All members of the committee and agency staff introduced themselves in a warm-up exercise by answering the following three questions:

- What is your name and where do you live?
 - What is your primary connection to rivers?
 - What is the reason that you are here tonight?

- **Meeting Ground Rules, Data & Logistics**

- Charlie Sperry

- Charlie read through the ground rules for the committee and established the role of committee members and members of the public who may be in attendance at committee meetings. The group then collectively decided on the next meeting date for Tuesday, July 10th at the FWP office. The group also tentatively penciled in Tuesday, August 7th as a date for the 3rd meeting.

- Chet Crowser

- Chet briefly went through the information packet provided to committee members. He explained that surveys, use data, and other types of information have been collected and will be provided to the committee by FWP to aid in topic discussions. He also welcomed committee members to share additional information needs as they arise.

- **Homework**

The following assignments were given to committee members for completion before the next meeting on July 10th.

1. *Talk with 3 to 5 people as a trap line.*

- Trap lines should vary over the course of the committee's work but there may be some who remain a part of the each trap line throughout the process.
 - Trap lines should be built upon to encompass more than just the original 3 to 5 individuals.
 - Committee members will be asked to report back!

2. *Ask trap line members to answer the following questions.*

- What are they most interested in when they recreate on rivers in west-central Montana?
 - Big Fish? Solitude? Scenery? Camaraderie? Whitewater? etc.
 - What concerns them most about the rivers in west-central Montana?
 - Access? Conflicts? Fisheries? Litter? etc.

3. *Look through the river recreation planning manual paying particular attention to the guiding principles beginning on page 23.*

- **Opportunity for audience introductions**

- Charlie Sperry

- An opportunity was provided for members of the audience who are not committee members to introduce themselves. Audience members included Juanita Vero, Robin Cunningham, Darla Hand, and Joan Little. Charlie explained that the audience's role at meetings is primarily to observe but comments, concerns, or suggestions may be submitted to the committee in writing.

- **Final comments**

- Charlie Sperry

- Charlie offered a reminder that the committee may take a slow start, but as the group begins to get to know one another it will gain momentum. He also encouraged committee members to share short-term solutions in addition to long-term solutions for FWP managers to consider.

- **Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

FWP Region 2 Office

3201 Spurgin Road